Remarks

I. Introduction

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated July 21, 2009. This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-11, 16-17, 19-21, 26, and 28-34 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 16, and 21 are amended. Claims 3-5, 8, 12-15, 18, 22-25, and 27 are cancelled. Claims 28-34 are added.

III. Claims Rejections Under § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 17, 18, and 19-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,206,572 ("Farag"). Claims 1-2, 11, and 21 are amended and the rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 3-5, 8, 12-15, 18, 22-25 and 27 are cancelled.

Independent claim 1 defines a method of configuring a motor controller with an external device. Claim 1 requires "providing the motor controller to include solid state switches for controlling application of power to the motor, and a control circuit for controlling operation of the solid state switches, the control circuit comprising a programmed processor for commanding operation of the solid state switches, and a memory connected to the programmed processor for storing parameters relating to operation of the solid state switches." Claim 1 further requires "providing the external device to include a memory for storing parameters relating to operation of the solid state

switches" and "establishing communications between the programmed processor and the external device." Claim 1 has been amended to require "uploading a configuration database file from the controller memory to the external device memory, the configuration database file comprising a plurality of the stored parameters relating to operation of the solid state switches" and "subsequently downloading the uploaded configuration database file from the external device memory to the controller memory." Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found at least at page 10, lines 7-16, and at page 12, line 12 to page 13, line 12, for example.

Farag discloses a motor controller that may be customized for a particular application by use of stored program steps. (Col. 3, lines 42-47). Each set of program steps is used to configure a starter to match a particular application. (Col. 3, lines 48-52). A configuration can be changed by loading into memory the appropriate set of program steps and changing input and output labels to match the new application. (Col. 3, lines 51-55).

The motor controller includes a microcomputer having a memory in which programs and code are stored. (Col. 4, lines 35-38). Commands are entered by pushbuttons, contacts, or by means of an "external communications device 125." (Col. 4, lines 50-58). The "external communications device 125" can set motor control and protection parameters, and read various operating conditions transmitted by the microcomputer. (Col. 10, lines 43-48). The "external communications device 125" also sends code representing Boolean motor starting equations to the microcomputer. (Col. 10, lines 57-62). Such code is stored in the microcomputer's memory. (Col. 11, lines 8-11).

Farag does not teach or suggest "subsequently downloading the uploaded configuration database file from the external device memory to the controller memory," as required by amended claim 1. Applicants wish to emphasize that this limitation specifically requires downloading to the controller memory a "configuration database file" that was previously uploaded to the external device memory from the controller memory. While Farag discloses transferring various types of information between the "external communications device 125" and the microcomputer memory, nowhere does Farag show uploading a "configuration database file" from the microcomputer memory to the "external communications device 125" and then subsequently downloading the same file back into the microcomputer memory, as claimed. For example, the "external communications device 125" of Farag sets motor control and protection parameters, reads various operating conditions transmitted by the microcomputer, and sends code representing Boolean motor starting equations to the microcomputer. However, none of these activities constitutes uploading and subsequently downloading the same "configuration database file," as required by amended claim 1.

The capability to upload a file from a motor controller's memory to an external device and subsequently download the same file back to the motor controller's memory can be advantageous in a variety of different circumstances. For example, this feature may be useful in connection with servicing the motor controller, as discussed at page 12, line 15-18 of the specification.

None of the other cited art teaches or suggests "subsequently downloading the uploaded configuration database file from the external device memory to the controller

memory," as required by amended claim 1, either. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 11 and 21 contain limitations similar to certain limitations of claim 1, and have been amended in a similar manner. Therefore, amended claims 11 and 21, and their respective dependent claims, are also patentable over the cited art for the reasons presented above.

IV. Claims Rejections Under § 103

A. Claims 6 and 16

Claims 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farag in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,212 ("Perholtz"). Claims 6 and 16 have been amended and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claims 6 and 16 depend respectively from amended independent claims 1 and 11, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, amended claims 6 and 16 are also patentable over the cited art.

B. Claims 9 and 19

Claims 9 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farag in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,183 ("Kawai"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 19 depend respectively from amended independent claims 1 and 11, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, claims 9 and 19 are also patentable over the cited art.

V. New Claims 28-34

A. New Dependent Claim 28

New claim 28 depends from amended claim 1 and further requires "uploading the configuration database file to the external device memory prior to servicing the motor controller" and "downloading the uploaded configuration database file to the controller memory after servicing the motor controller." Support for new claim 28 is found at least at page 12, lines 14-18, for example.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore new claim 28, which depends from amended claim 1, is also patentable over the cited art.

B. New Claims 29-33

New independent claim 29 defines a method of configuring a motor controller with an external device, and requires, in part, "storing in the external device memory a plurality of configuration database files each comprising a respective plurality of parameters relating to operation of a respective type of motor controller system," "selecting a configuration database file from among the plurality of stored configuration database files based on a type of the motor controller," and "transferring the selected configuration database file from the external device memory to the controller memory." Support for new claim 29 is found at least at page 10, lines 1-8, for example.

Farag does not teach or suggest the combination of new claim 29. For example, Farag does not teach or suggest "storing in the external device memory a plurality of configuration database files each comprising a respective plurality of parameters relating

to operation of a respective type of motor controller system," as claimed. While the "external communications device 125" of Farag may from time to time send motor control and protection parameters, and may also send code representing Boolean motor starting equations, there is no teaching or suggestion that the "external communications device 125" ever stores a plurality of files each of which holds parameters relating to a "respective type of motor controller system," as claimed. Similarly, there is no teaching or suggestion in Farag that the "external communications device 125" selects a file from among a plurality of stored files "based on a type of the motor controller," as claimed.

None of the other cited art teaches or suggests the combination of new claim 29, either. Therefore, new claim 29 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 30-33, which depend from new claim 29, recite various additional features that are described in the specification. No new matter is added. Claims 30-33 depend from new claim 29 and therefore are patentable over the cited art for the same reasons discussed above.

C. New Independent Claim 34

New independent claim 34 defines a method of configuring a motor controller system. New claim 34 requires "establishing a communication link between a motor controller system and an external device," "uploading a configuration database file from a memory of the motor controller system to a memory of the external device, the configuration database file comprising a plurality of the stored parameters relating to operation of the motor controller system," and "downloading the uploaded configuration database file from the memory of the external device to the memory of the motor

controller system." Support for new claim 34 may be found at least at page 10, lines 7-16, and at page 12, line 12 to page 13, line 12, for example.

For the reasons set forth above in connection with independent claim 1, none of the cited art teaches or suggests "downloading the uploaded configuration database file from the memory of the external device to the memory of the motor controller system," as required by new claim 34. Therefore, new claim 34 is patentable over the cited art.

VI. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, all pending claims are allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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